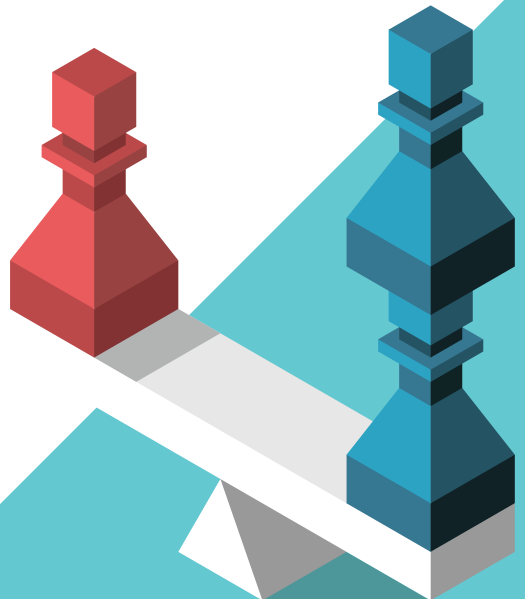


OLD UNIVERSITY
VALLETTA CAMPUS
11TH MAY 2018

EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS



Erasmus+



Institute
for Education

members of ATEE

EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS

The purpose of this international conference is to bring together educators from all levels, both formal and non-formal settings, to share ideas and possibilities as well as to explore challenges related to the implementation of equity and inclusion in schools.

The conference will look into the role that school leaders have in achieving equity and inclusion in schools; culturally relevant pedagogies; alternative curricula; student engagement and 'students at risk/pushed out', alternative forms of assessment to ensure equity and inclusion; social justice practices in schools; parental collaboration with schools; student voice and decision making; and intercultural competencies and education. The conference will be of interest to policy makers, school leaders, teachers, unions, parents' representatives, student unions, youth workers and education-focused youth NGOs. The conference is part of a concluding event of an Erasmus Plus Project 'Creation of Continuous Professional Development Programme for Educators' headed by the Ministry for Education and Employment.





11TH MAY 2018

PROGRAMME

08.15 - 08.45	Registration and welcome coffee <i>Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)</i>
08.45 - 09.15	Welcome by Conference Chairpersons, Prof John P. Portelli & Ms Salvina Muscat Opening By Dr Francis Fabri Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education and Employment Presentation of compendium to Permanent Secretary by Ms Joanne Grima, CEO, IFE <i>Aula Magna (Level 1)</i>
09.15 - 10.15	Plenary 1: Keynote Speaker introduced by Ms Salvina Muscat Improving quality and equity in education: Evidence from research and international good practice Professor Pasi Sahlberg Q&A
10.15 - 11.15	Plenary 2: Keynote Speaker introduced by Professor John P. Portelli The Praxis of Social Justice Education: A Language Re/Considered in a Time of Accountability Professor Awad Ibrahim Q&A
11.15 - 11.35	Coffee Break <i>Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)</i>
11.35 - 12.15	Panel discussion by Project Partners chaired by Dr Francois Mifsud Members of the Panel Professor John P. Portelli; OISE, University of Toronto Ms. Salvina Muscat; Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta Dr. Kathy Kikis-Papadakis; FORTH Research Centre, Crete Professor Agostino Portera; University of Verona <i>Aula Magna (Level 1)</i>

12.15 – 13.15	Workshop Sessions		
	<p>WORKSHOP 1 Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1) HOW TO HAVE AN EQUITABLE SCHOOL? Professor Pasi Sahlberg</p>	<p>WORKSHOP 2 Venue: Lecture Room 1 (Level 1) WHAT'S KAPITLU TLETTAX GOT TO DO WITH YOUR TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION OF A HIP-HOP PEDAGOGY Professor Awad Ibrahim</p>	<p>WORKSHOP 3 Venue: Meeting Room 1 (Level -1) LEARNING THROUGH FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SUCCESS CRITERIA. Ms Geraldine Vella (Workshop will be conducted in Maltese)</p>
	<p>WORKSHOP 4 Venue: Meeting Room 2 (Level -1) SCHOOL LEADERS: CATALYSTS FOR INCLUSION Professor Mark G. Borg</p>	<p>WORKSHOP 5 Venue: Meeting Room 3 (Level -1) #PROTAGONISTS NOT SPECTATORS Mr Lelio Spiteri</p>	<p>WORKSHOP 6 Venue: Meeting Room 4 (Level -1) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS Mr Bernardo Riolo</p>
	<p>WORKSHOP 7 Venue: Meeting Room 5 (Level -1) THE DANGERS OF DEFICIT MENTALITY IN TEACHING: TOWARD A PEDAGOGY OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES Professor John P. Portelli</p>	<p>WORKSHOP 8 Venue: Lecture Room 3 (Level 1) INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR A ROBUST DEMOCRACY Dr Francois Mifsud</p>	
13.15 – 14.45	Lunch <i>Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)</i>		
14.45 – 15.30	Reporting about workshops, chaired by Dr John P. Portelli (3 minutes per workshop) <i>Aula Magna (Level 1)</i>		

<p>15.30 - 16.30</p>	<p>Reflections by Panel members on the workshops, and issues arising from the conference chaired by Dr Francoise Mifsud Professor John P. Portelli; OISE, University of Toronto Professor Mark G. Borg; Faculty of Education, University of Malta Ms Salvina Muscat; Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta Mr Lelio Spiteri; Head of School Mr Bernardo Riolo; Head of School Ms Geraldine Vella; Assistant Head</p> <p>Q&A</p>
<p>16.30- 17.00</p>	<p>Conference Closure by Prof John P. Portelli and Ms Salvina Muscat <i>Aula Magna (Level 1)</i></p>

08.15 - 08.45

Registration and welcome coffee
Venue: Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)

08.45 - 09.15

Welcome by Conference Chairpersons,
Prof John P. Portelli and Ms Salvina Muscat

Opening By Dr Francis Fabri Permanent Secretary,
Ministry for Education and Employment



About Dr Francis Fabri

Dr Francis Fabri has a range of experience in voluntary work, schools and education. He is a teacher by profession, and served in a number of leadership roles at the Ministry for Education and Employment including those of College Principal, Director at the Research and Development Department, acting Director at the Curriculum Management and eLearning Department, and Director General at the Operations Department and the Department for Curriculum, Research, Innovation and Lifelong Learning.

Dr Fabri was awarded his doctorate in education from the Institute of Education, University of London after completing Masters and Bachelor programmes at the University of Malta. His areas of specialization include educational leadership, school networks and networking, professional training and development, strategy development and implementation. He has published and presented in these areas both at national and international conferences. He visited a number of education systems including Finland, Singapore, France, England, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands. His main strategic and policy contributions are the *Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta: 2014-2024* (2014) and *My Journey: Achieving through different paths* (2016).

Presentation of compendium to Permanent Secretary
by Ms Joanne Grima, CEO, IFE
Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)

09.15 - 10.15

Plenary 1: Keynote Speaker
Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)

IMPROVING QUALITY AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION: EVIDENCE FROM RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL GOOD PRACTICE

Education systems and even districts are increasingly compared against one another today to find the best ways to improve the performance of education systems. The quality of learning outcomes and equity of education outcomes are often regarded as the building blocks of education system performance. The sixth OECD PISA survey provides the latest big picture of educational performance around the world. This presentation discusses contemporary research findings combined with the most relevant global trends in education today in enhancing equity and inclusion in education systems. Conclusions include critical remarks about over-reliance on this global and national data, and calls for better understanding of the dynamics of educational equity and inclusion as well as their implications on education policy and practice.



About Professor Pasi Sahlberg

Pasi Sahlberg is a Finnish educator, author, and scholar. He has worked as school teacher, teacher educator, researcher, and policy advisor in Finland and has studied education systems and reforms around the world. He has also served the World Bank in Washington DC; European Commission in Torino, Italy; and OECD as an external expert. His core expertise is in teacher education, international education policies, higher education, and educational leadership. He has published and spoken widely about educational change and school improvement around the world. His book “Finnish Lessons 2.0: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland” won the 2013 Grawemeyer Award. He has also received Education Award in Finland in 2012, The Robert Owen Award in Scotland in 2014, The Lego Prize in 2016, and Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency in 2017. He is a former director general of CIMO at the Finland’s Ministry of Education and Culture in Helsinki and a visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education and at the Arizona State University. He is an advisor to the Governments of Scotland, Sweden, Finland and to the mayor of Reykjavik. He is chair of the Advisory Board for the Open Society Foundation’s Education Support Programme and adjunct professor at the University of Helsinki, and member of the Governing Board of the University of Oulu. His latest books include “Hard Questions on Global Educational Change” (2017), Empowered Educators in Finland (2017) and FinnishED Leadership: Four Big, Inexpensive Ideas to Transform Education (2017). He is Professor of Education at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

10.15 – 11.15

Plenary 2: Keynote Speaker
Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)

THE PRAXIS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION: A LANGUAGE RE/CONSIDERED IN A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY

This interactive talk will introduce and define the basic principles of the theory and practice (praxis) of social justice education. Weaving some findings and issues raised by a research conducted by the Institute for Education (Malta), the aim of this presentation is to:

1. pose a number of Socratic questions
2. offer a sketchy history of the different approaches to education throughout history and
3. discuss 16 principles of social justice education, including a distinction between education and schooling and equity and equality. These principles become more urgent in a time of accountability, where everything is measured, tested and calculated.



About Professor Awad Ibrahim

Awad Ibrahim is an award-winning author and a Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa. He is a Curriculum Theorist with special interest in cultural studies, Hip-Hop, youth and Black popular culture, social foundations of education (i.e., philosophy, history and sociology of education), social justice and community service learning, diasporic and continental African identities, ethnography and applied linguistics. He has researched and published widely in these areas. He obtained his PhD from OISE, the University of Toronto, and has been with the Faculty of Education of the University of Ottawa since 2007. Before that, he was in the United States where he taught in Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Internationally, he has ongoing projects in Morocco, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the United States. He is the creator and the leader of the Urban Education Community at the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa. This is a project that intends to immerse Bachelor of Education students into urban middle and high schools. He has more than 100 publications. Among his high school students, he was known as Dr. Dre.

11.15 - 11.35

Coffee Break
Venue: Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)

11.35 - 12.15

Panel - Discussion by Project Partners
Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)



About Professor John P. Portelli; OISE, University of Toronto

Professor John P. Portelli, originally from Malta, is a professor in the Department of Social Justice Education, and the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education at OISE, University of Toronto. His research focuses on equity and social justice in educational policy and leadership. He has published 14 books including 4 books of poetry, a collection of short stories, and over 100 articles and chapters in books. He has lived in Canada since 1977 but from 2007 to 2017 he has been a member of the NCFHE Board. He is an advisor to the Ministry for Employment and Employment, Malta.



About Ms. Salvina Muscat; Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta

Salvina Muscat is vastly experienced in Education Leadership in Malta as she taught mathematics, was Head of Department, a School leader in two different schools, a College Principal and Assistant Director. Presently she is an Advisor within the Ministry of Education and Employment in Malta.



Dr. Kathy Kikis-Papadakis; FORTH Research Centre, Crete

Dr. Kathy Kikis-Papadakis is the principal researcher in charge of the Educational Research and Evaluation Group within Foundation for Research and Technology, Vassilika Vouton, Heraklion, Crete, Greece. She has extensive knowledge in the field of research, education and education policy.



Professor Agostino Portera; University of Verona

Professor Agostino Portera studied Psychology in Rome, obtained his PhD in Education at the University of Freiburg (Germany) and has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Würzburg, London, Thessalonica, UCLA Los Angeles and OISE Toronto. Agostino is currently Professor of intercultural education and Director of the Centre for Intercultural Studies at the University of Verona (Italy). He is also on the scientific committee of many educational journals (in Italy and abroad) and member of the editorial board of Intercultural Education, (Taylor and Francis).

12.15 – 13.15

Workshops

WORKSHOP 1

Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)

HOW TO HAVE AN EQUITABLE SCHOOL?

Equity in education is primarily a responsibility of policy-makers and education authorities. However, there are several things that schools can do to make their school more inclusive and equitable. This workshop takes a practitioner perspective to equity in education and identifies some concrete things every school could do.

or

WORKSHOP 2

Venue: Lecture Room 1 (Level 1)

WHAT'S KAPTILU TLETTAX GOT TO DO WITH YOUR TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION OF A HIP-HOP PEDAGOGY?

“We must dare so as never to dichotomize cognition and emotion,” wrote Paulo Freire. In this interactive workshop, we build on Freire’s framework by introducing and discussing Hip-Hop as a form of pedagogy. We will also trace the history of Hip-Hop, link it to the curriculum and offer concrete ways of how we can engage it in a classroom context. Get ready to dance a bit in this workshop, after all it is nice to have some fun in class and while we teach.

or

WORKSHOP 3

Venue: Meeting Room 1 (Level -1)

LEARNING THROUGH FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SUCCESS CRITERIA

During this workshop, participants will be given a set of different learning outcomes and they would need to develop success criteria and varied tasks to reach different levels so that every student in class can feel success.



About Ms Geraldine Vella

Geraldine Vella is presently serving as Assistant Head of School at St. Theresa College Middle School, B’Kara. In 2013 she graduated with a Master in Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Leicester. Her research focused on Developing an Assessment for Learning Policy Document in the Primary schools of a school network. In 1999 she graduated with a B.Ed(Hons.) in Maltese and Early & Middle Years. In 2017 she wrote an accredited module about questioning and Success Criteria at MQF level 6, which was delivered to all the teachers at school.

or

WORKSHOP 4

Venue: Meeting Room 2 (Level -1)

SCHOOL LEADERS: CATALYSTS FOR INCLUSION

“School leaders have the responsibility of ensuring that their schools are inclusive of ALL learners. Indeed, the implementation of inclusive education requires school leaders who not only endorse the philosophy of inclusive education but who are also catalysts for inclusive classroom practices. This workshop will deliberate on the major challenges that school leaders face in promoting inclusive school change.”



About Professor Mark G. Borg

Professor Mark G. Borg is Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Malta. He has served as Head of the Department of Psychology and as Dean of the Faculty of Education. An educator and academic psychologist by profession, Professor Borg has been teaching and researching educational psychology for over 30 years. He has published widely on several topics including occupational stress in teaching, the age position effect, gender differences in scholastic achievement, teachers' perceptions of classroom problem behaviour, and school bullying. An Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a Chartered Scientist at the UK Science Council, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, he is a member of all the major international associations of psychology and education. Professor Borg has served as editorial consultant for several mainstream peer-reviewed journals including *Educational Psychology: An International Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *Educational Psychology*, and *European Psychologist*.

or

WORKSHOP 5

Venue: Meeting Room 3 (Level -1)

#PROTAGONISTS NOT SPECTATORS

During this workshop we will discuss the role of students in schools. Taking the Happy School as an example, we will discuss the philosophy of this school which considers students as individuals not numbers, where students take an active role in all that goes on at school. We will be able to listen to the students themselves sharing their experience as members of a primary school that puts academic performance behind the pursuit of happiness.



About Mr Lelio Spiteri

Lelio Spiteri was born on the 26th of May 1973. He was educated at the Bishop's Conservatory in Gozo, Laura Vicuna Primary School and later at Victoria's Ninu Cremona Junior Lyceum. After completing secondary school, he was admitted at the Sixth Form and a year later he started the Bachelor of Education (Hons) course at the University of Malta. Lelio graduated four years later (1994) as a teacher. He started his teaching practice in Gala Primary School. Between 1995 and 1998 he followed the Master in Education Course at the University of Malta and a few years later (2003) he was awarded a Diploma in School Administration and Management from the same University. After thirteen years as a primary school teacher, he was appointed Assistant Head of School at the Gozo College Rabat Primary School. Five years later, he was appointed Head of School. Lelio is very active in

the broadcasting sector especially in radio transmission. His program 'L-Edukazzjoni ta' Uliedna' (The Education of our Children) was even awarded as the 'Best Education Program 2002' by the Malta Broadcasting Authority

or

WORKSHOP 6

Venue: Meeting Room 4 (Level -1)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

In this workshop Parental involvement issues will be discussed. The San Gorg Preca College, Primary School Valletta parental involvement project which was developed with the Lifelong Learning Department will be explored. During the workshop those present will have the opportunity to find out more about this issue through a case study and discussions.



About Mr Bernardo Riolo

Bernardo Riolo is Head of a School with a population of around 180 pupils and 40 members of staff. Mr Riolo started teaching in 1997, and after a number of years teaching, Mr Riolo was appointed Assistant Head of School at a Primary school in Malta. After four years he was appointed Acting Head of School and subsequently Head of School of a Primary School situated in the Inner Harbour Region Area.

or

WORKSHOP 7

Venue: Meeting Room 5 (Level -1)

THE DANGERS OF DEFICIT MENTALITY IN TEACHING: TOWARD A PEDAGOGY OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES

One of the major hindrances to meaningful engagement is the mentality of deficit that permeates schools. This hands-on workshop will unpack the assumptions of the deficit mentality that comes in different forms. It will also identify suggestions on how to counteract this systemic problem that impacts on teaching and leadership.

or

WORKSHOP 8

Venue: Lecture Room 3 (Level 1)

INCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR A ROBUST DEMOCRACY

This workshop will explore other possibilities of teaching religious education other than the current mainstream way of teaching Religious Education in Malta. The objective of this workshop is to engage with Religious Education as a basis for democracy and inclusion in schools. Various pedagogical suggestions will be highlighted especially with regard to learners as agents of inclusion.



About Dr François Mifsud

Dr. François Mifsud, lecturer in multicultural and education studies in the Department of Inclusion and Access to Learning, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy and social anthropology at the University of Malta, a Theology degree from the Facoltà Teologica Emilia-Romagna (Bologna) and a Master in Social Justice and Education from the Institute of Education (IOE) at University College London, His Ph.D from the Department of Social Justice Education, OISE, University of Toronto, focused on questions of social justice, diversity, multiculturalism, inclusion, hospitality and educational possibilities.

13.15 – 14.45

Lunch

Venue: Aula Magna Foyer (Level 1)

14.45 – 15.30

Reporting about workshops

Venue: Aula Magna (Level 1)

15.30 – 16.30

Reflections by Panel members on the workshops, and issues arising from the conference chaired by Dr Françoise Mifsud

Professor John P. Portelli; OISE, University of Toronto

Professor Mark G. Borg; Faculty of Education, University of Malta

Ms Salvina Muscat; Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta

Mr Lelio Spiteri; Head of School

Mr Bernardo Riolo; Head of School

Ms Geraldine Vella; Assistant Head

Q&A

16.30- 17.00

Conference Closure by Prof John P. Portelli and Ms Salvina Muscat

Aula Magna (Level 1)



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